

# Brandt Gerard Cordelli

Of Counsel

[gerard.cordelli@wilsonelser.com](mailto:gerard.cordelli@wilsonelser.com)

Los Angeles, CA – 213.330.8828

Gerard (Jerry) Cordelli concentrates his practice on insurance coverage counseling and coverage litigation nationally, primarily for excess and surplus lines insurers across the United States, with particular focus on California and the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Southeast regions.

Jerry's coverage practice extends to coverage counseling and litigation matters involving public entities, construction defects, drug and medical product mass torts, cannabis claims, intellectual property, the TCPA, civil rights claims, wrongful termination, mortgage collateral replacement claims, toxic torts, environmental pollution, product liability, defamation, noncompetes, and malpractice actions including legal, real estate, insurance, accountants, and medical and psychotherapy practitioners.

Jerry also has extensive experience handling insurance defense and commercial litigation matters, including the defense of professional liability, product liability, wrongful termination, civil rights, premises liability, defamation, intellectual property, sale of businesses and noncompete enforcement, as well as providing advice and opinions on the impact and interplay of indemnification and insurance provisions in commercial contracts to non-insurance company clients.

Clients appreciate Jerry's exceptional communication and analytical skills, pragmatic approach to litigation, ability to unravel the key issues and law involved in the most complex claims, and his deep experience and knowledge of the differences in treatment of common coverage issues across multiple jurisdictions throughout the country. Jerry makes it a priority to seek proactive approaches early in the life of a claim to preserve coverage defenses, forestall potential bad faith issues, and leverage the possibility of coverage litigation to create the most efficient and practical resolution opportunities. His goal is to obtain the best possible results for his clients, inside and outside the courtroom.

## Insurance Coverage

Jerry led his own firm, The Coverage Law Firm, PLLC, for more than 20 years before returning to Wilson Elser in 2024, where his coverage practice began.

## Services

- Insurance & Reinsurance Coverage
- Insurance & Reinsurance Transactions
- Commercial Contracts & Agreements

Jerry's practice focuses on insurance coverage counseling and litigation, including drafting policy forms and endorsements for surplus lines carriers for their construction, life sciences, hospitality, security guard, oil and gas services, trucking, entertainment, and professional liability accounts, providing advice on reservations of rights and denial determinations on CGL, E&O and Specialty Lines coverage matters, and litigation of Declaratory Judgment and Breach of Contract claims under various commercial lines coverages, including commercial general liability, errors and omissions, employers liability coverage under workers compensation policies, commercial property, commercial auto, excess and umbrella liability coverage, and reinsurance.

Notably, Jerry is the inventor and developer of The Liability Insurance Coverage Referral System and Method known as the Automatic Coverage Referral System (ACRS). The ACRS is a way of filtering and channeling liability claims so that those presenting certain characteristics are properly flagged for special handling by experienced coverage counsel before coverage or bad faith problems develop. Among other things, the system is designed to ameliorate some of the problems created by case law in certain states that greatly circumscribe the scope of the attorney-client and work product privileges through the misguided belief that the retention of coverage counsel by carriers is merely an example of farming out claim adjusting tasks rather than seeking legal advice.

## **Education**

- UCLA School of Law (J.D., 1983)
- George Washington University (B.B.A. Finance, *with Distinction*, 1979)

## **Bar Admissions**

- California
- District of Columbia
- Maryland
- Pennsylvania
- Virginia

## **Court Admissions**

- Supreme Court of the United States
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Virginia
- U.S. District Court, District of Maryland
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida

- U.S. District Court, District of Columbia
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court, Central District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of Columbia
- Court of International Trade

### **Clerkships**

Clerk to Chief of the Office of the Special Counsel for the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board

### **Professional Affiliations**

- DRI: The Voice of the Defense Bar: Insurance Law Committee; Subcommittee on the Terrorism Insurance Act (TRIA)
- American Bar Association (ABA) past service: Tort and Insurance Practice Section (Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee; Excess, Surplus Lines & Reinsurance Committee and International Insurance Committee); General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Section; Standing Committee on Law & National Security Task Force on the Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction